



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Great Lakes Region
Illinois, Indiana, Michigan,
Minnesota, North Dakota,
Ohio, South Dakota,
Wisconsin

Planning/Programming Branch
Airports Division
2300 East Devon Avenue, Suite 309
Des Plaines, Illinois 60018

July 16, 2004

Mr. Mike Molnar, Program Manager
Lake Michigan Coastal Program
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
402 West Washington Street, Room W265
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2782

RE: Gary/Chicago International Airport
Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Molnar:

The Federal Aviation Administration and the Gary/Chicago International Airport Authority hired a team of consultants to prepare and Environmental Impact Statement for improvements to Runway 12-30 at the Gary/Chicago International Airport. These runway improvements are required to conform to FAA safety standards and to meet the needs of current and future airport users. We anticipate these improvements to begin in 2005, with a completion date as early as 2007 but likely to extend over a longer period of time.

Maps of the location of the proposed improvements, as well as project details are included in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, dated April 8, 2004, a copy of which was forwarded to you earlier by our office for your review and comment.

We have reviewed the impacts of the proposed improvements and the Matrices of State Laws Applicable to Federal Consistency. We have determined that the proposed federal activities comply with Indiana's approved coastal management program and will be conducted in a manner consistent with such program.

The specific proposed major Federal actions with regard to this development proposal are:

- Federal unconditional approval of the 2001 Airport Layout Plan. This includes an airspace review determination that the development proposed is appropriate from an airspace utilization and safety perspective based on aeronautical studies considering effects on the safe and efficient use of airspace by aircraft and the safety of persons and property on the ground conducted pursuant to the process under the standards and criteria of 14 CFR Parts 77 and 157 (49 U.S.C. Section 40103 and Section 40113, respectively).
- Federal environmental approval necessary to proceed with processing of an application for Federal funding for those development items qualifying under the Airport and Airway Improvement Act as amended, and recodified at 49 U.S.C. Section 47101 et. Seq. and/or approval to use funds collected as Passenger Facility Charges.

- Federal environmental approval necessary for installation and/or relocation, certification and operation of navigation aids and revisions of associated Standard Instrument Approach Procedures (SIAP). Also, design, development, approval, and implementation of air traffic procedures consistent with the assumptions set forth in this document.
- FAA review and issuance of findings on requests for conversion of airport property, "Federally obligated land" for the non-aviation related development that is part of the Proposed Projects. Airport land becomes Federally obligated when an airport owner accepts FAA grants. Before conversion of airport property for non-aviation use, the FAA must grant a land release.

We understand that the Local Sponsor, the Gary/Chicago International Airport Authority will be responsible for submitting subsequent requests for federal consistency based on its applications for Federal funding and for permitting, e.g., Section 404 Permit/Section 401 Water Quality Certification, even though these areas are generally covered by the Federal Aviation Administrations Federal Consistence determination provided in this letter.

We request your review of the proposed improvements to determine if our finding of federal consistency meets the requirements of the Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program.

If you have questions, or need additional information, please contact either of the individuals listed below:

Federal Contact

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Local Sponsor [Airport Authority]

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Sincerely,



Prescott C. Snyder
Airports Environmental Program Manager

Cc: Philip Smithmeyer, Manager, Chicago Airports District Office, Federal Aviation Administration
Paul Karas, Administrator, Gary/Chicago International Airport
Bob Gyurko, Manager of Technical Programs, Gary/Chicago International Airport

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